

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 EB-07 ERDA-05 ACDA-05

OMB-01 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /085 W

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R 111434Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9150

INFO SECDEF

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

S E C R E T LONDON 03736

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, MPOL, SN, N2, UK

SUBJECT: USN ACCESS TO STORES BASIN AND FUEL DEPOT

REF: (A) WELLINGTON 568 (B) STATE 49893 (C) LONDON 2906

1. ON MARCH 7 WE CALLED ON DE COURCY-IRELAND OF FCO TO INFORM HIM OF CONTENTS OF REF. (A) AND REF. (B). HE WAS NOT AWARE OF THE KORN ARTICLE AND THANKED US FOR SHOWING IT TO HIM. PROPOSED PRESS GUIDANCE IN REF. (B) WAS ACCEPTABLE.

2. DE COURCY-IRELAND TOOK ADVANTAGE OF OCCASION TO GIVE US FURTHER VIEWS ON U.S. USE OF BERTHS AND SENOKO FUEL FACILITY. HIS MESSAGE WAS ESSENTIALLY NEGATIVE AS TO ANY REAL PROSPECT FOR GNZ OPERATION OF EITHER BERTHS OR FUEL FACILITIES. HE SAID THAT CAREFUL STUDY OF UK ARRANGEMENT WITH GOS INDICATES THAT UK CANNOT TRANSFER ITS RIGHTS TO ANY THIRD PARTY; UK CAN ONLY TURN PROPERTIES BACK TO GOS. FURTHER, UK ANALYSIS IS THAT GOS WANTS TO  
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OPERATE FACILITIES ITSELF AND WILL NOT BE RECEPTIVE TO A

PROPOSAL FOR GNZ TO OPERATE.

3. CURRENT STATUS OF UK/GOS NEGOTIATIONS IS THAT UK HAS INFORMED GOS THAT UK DOES NOT WISH RETAIN ANY BERTHING OR FUEL FACILITIES. UK HAS STATED A DESIRE TO LEASE 6 - 7 FUEL TANKS AT SENOKO BACK FROM GOS FOR REQUIREMENTS OF UK AND ITS ALLIES. THIS BID WAS MADE ON BASIS OF EXPECTED U.S. REQUIREMENTS AND INCLUDES TWO TANKS FOR JP-5 WHICH NO ONE ELSE USES.

4. DE COURCY-IRELAND FEELS FUEL TANK LEASEBACK PLUS GOS AGREEMENT TO GIVE UK AND ALLIES PRIORITY AT ONE OR TWO BERTHS PROBABLY WILL END UP AS MOST FAVORABLE POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENT. UK IS NOT DISCUSSING ANY OF THESE POINTS WITH GOS AT PRESENT SO U.S. AND GNZ NATURALLY FREE TO MAKE APPROACHES TO GOS SEEKING DIFFERENT SOLUTION. ANY U.S. INITIATIVE SHOULD BE MADE SOON, HOWEVER, AS UK WILL BEGIN DISCUSSIONS OF DETAILS OF TURNBACK OF FACILITIES SOON.

5. AS A FINAL POINT DE COURCY-IRELAND SAID U.S. PROBABLY WOULD BE ABLE RETAIN ACCESS FOR NPW'S IF GOS MANAGES BERTHS SINCE THIS NEVER HAS BEEN A PROBLEM WITH SINGAPOREANS. IF NEW ZEALAND TAKES OVER FACILITIES THIS MIGHT NOT BE TRUE SINCE GNZ WOULD BE UNDER DOMESTIC PRESSURE TO APPLY SAME RULES IN SINGAPORE AS IT DOES IN NEW ZEALAND ITSELF. WE SAID WE THOUGHT THIS ARGUMENT A BIT FAR-FETCHED.

6. COMMENT. DE COURCY-IRELAND DID NOT SAY THAT UK BELIEVES U.S. SHOULD GIVE UP IDEA OF GNZ OPERATION OF BERTHS AND FUEL FACILITIES BUT ENTIRE TENOR HIS CONVERSATION WAS TO THAT END. WHILE HIS REMARKS SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS A RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST TO DEFER UK ACTION ON NAVAL FACILITY TURNBACK THEY ARE ANOTHER INDICATION THAT HMG IS ALMOST READY TO FINALIZE ARRANGEMENTS WITH GOS. IT IS CLEAR THAT WE CANNOT EXPECT MUCH HELP FROM UK ON THIS SCORE FOR REASONS SET OUT PARA 2, REF. (C).

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUELING, MILITARY POLICIES, TROOP REDUCTIONS  
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**Draft Date:** 11 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** USN ACCESS TO STORES BASIN AND FUEL DEPOT  
**TAGS:** MARR, MPOL, SN, UK, NZ, US, USN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006